

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the following Abstract with the Abstract that was filed with the above patent application

ABSTRACT

A network tap module having a network line monitoring function has a signal splitter to split a signal received from a network into a first copy which is returned to the network and a second copy. A line monitoring and statistics circuit receives the second copy of the signal and carries out line monitoring and statistics collecting thereon. The module further has at least one of: (i) a display for displaying an indication of the state of the network line based on the line monitoring and statistics collection carried out by the line monitoring and statistics circuit, and (ii) an interface for allowing data relating to the state of the network line based on the line monitoring and statistics collection carried out by the line monitoring and statistics circuit to be output from the module.